

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Gabriel Gonzalez was born on September 16, 1918, to Urbano and Guadelupe Gonzalez, in Rio Escondidos, Mexico; and,

*Whereas*, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

*Whereas*, Gabriel married Geneva Wilcox of Wanblee, South Dakota, on July 19, 1944, in San Antonio, Texas, and to this union 8 children were born: Mario, Margarete, Olivia, Leonard, Larry, Debra, Brenda, and John, who in turn blessed them with 43 grandchildren, 7 step-grandchildren, and 39 great-grandchildren; and,

*Whereas*, Gabriel is a World War II veteran of the Army Air Corps who served in the 810<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force Base Unit; and,

*Whereas*, After military service, Gabriel worked on bridge construction, including all the bridges on Interstate 90 and Interstate 29 in South Dakota, was employed by the Rapid City area schools as a custodian, and he and Geneva owned and operated Gonzalez Ceramics and Pottery, which specialized in fine Native American pottery and figurines; and,

*Whereas*, Gabriel will observe his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives gather on September 13, 2008, to honor him and celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 16, 2008, as

### *GABRIEL GONZALEZ DAY*

in South Dakota, and I join his many friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Ninth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:



Chris Nelson, Secretary of State